

## **Goal-Oriented Achievement Learning Skills (GOALS)**

### **Fact Sheet for School Administrators**

#### **WHAT is GOALS?**

- GOALS is a certificate program developed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) under a [USDA's Professional Standards](#) training grant.
- GOALS includes online web pages that offer users a professional standards roadmap to ensure food nutrition staff are adequately trained and have the skills necessary to not only provide students with nutritious meals, but also the skills required to operate a small business.
- GOALS offers school nutrition staff the opportunity to earn a *GOALS Certificate of Excellence*, signed by Wisconsin's state superintendent of schools, to recognize school nutrition professionals that have completed the DPI SNT-approved trainings in 4 key areas of school nutrition management: Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communications and Marketing.
- There are 5 tracks a nutrition professional may follow in order to receive their GOALS certificate:
  - Director
  - Manager
  - Staff
  - Short Track for Directors
  - Short Track for Managers

For more details on each track, including hour requirements or short track eligibility, please visit:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/goal-oriented-achievement-learning-skills/certificate-level>

- The trainings are conducted both online and in-person (with some face-to-face trainings required), and most trainings are available at nominal or no cost to participants.

#### **WHY GOALS?**

- Due to the newly-implemented USDA meal pattern requirements, and due to significant changes made to school nutrition programs, it is crucial that school nutrition staff are adequately trained to not only provide students with nutritious meals, but to also have the business skills required to operate a successful school nutrition program.
- GOALS training resources and tracking tools satisfy USDA Professional Standards regulations.
- GOALS offers opportunities for career advancement in the school nutrition field for foodservice employees that do not have a formal degree.
- GOALS allows for employees to be recognized for their expertise in the school nutrition field and the critical role they play in ensuring Wisconsin students are well nourished and ready to learn.

- GOALS acknowledges that the certificate holders have obtained adequate training in the field of school nutrition. For new hires specifically, this gives assurance to the hirer that the hiree is qualified for the position.

## **HOW does one obtain a GOALS certificate?**

- In order to obtain a GOALS certificate, one must follow these three steps:
  1. The candidate must determine the most appropriate track to follow based on eligibility requirements
  2. All required trainings for the chosen track are to be completed before submitting an application
  3. The candidate may complete and submit their GOALS application\*
- \*Note: the GOALS certificate will not be issued without an application first being submitted, and applications will only be considered if all required trainings are completed and included within the submitted application.
- Once all required trainings are completed and the application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the DPI staff and candidates will be notified within 6 weeks.
- Obtaining a certificate through one of the short tracks requires previous school nutrition experience and/or specific nutrition-related degrees. For more details on the short tracks and their requirements, please visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/goal-oriented-achievement-learning-skills/certificate-levels>